

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

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JOHN LASH,

Case No. 3:16-cv-00324-MMD-WGC

Plaintiff,

ORDER

v.

ISIDRO BACA et al.,

Defendants.

This action is a *pro se* civil rights complaint filed pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 by a former state prisoner. On January 25, 2017, this Court issued an order directing Plaintiff to file his updated address with this Court on or before February 24, 2017. (ECF No. 9 at 2.) The Court also directed Plaintiff to file a non-prisoner application to proceed *in forma pauperis* or pay the full filing fee for a civil action on or before February 24, 2017. (*Id.*) The deadline has now expired, and Plaintiff has not filed his updated address, filed a non-prisoner application to proceed *in forma pauperis*, paid the full filing fee, or otherwise responded to the Court's order.

District courts have the inherent power to control their dockets and “[i]n the exercise of that power, they may impose sanctions including, where appropriate . . . dismissal” of a case. *Thompson v. Hous. Auth. of City of Los Angeles*, 782 F.2d 829, 831 (9th Cir. 1986). A court may dismiss an action, with prejudice, based on a party's failure to prosecute an action, failure to obey a court order, or failure to comply with local rules. See *Ghazali v. Moran*, 46 F.3d 52, 53-54 (9th Cir. 1995) (dismissal for noncompliance with local rule); *Ferdik v. Bonzelet*, 963 F.2d 1258, 1260-61 (9th Cir. 1992) (dismissal for

1 failure to comply with an order requiring amendment of complaint); *Carey v. King*, 856
2 F.2d 1439, 1440-41 (9th Cir. 1988) (dismissal for failure to comply with local rule requiring
3 *pro se* plaintiffs to keep court apprised of address); *Malone v. U.S. Postal Service*, 833
4 F.2d 128, 130 (9th Cir. 1987) (dismissal for failure to comply with court order); *Henderson*
5 *v. Duncan*, 779 F.2d 1421, 1424 (9th Cir. 1986) (dismissal for lack of prosecution and
6 failure to comply with local rules).

7 In determining whether to dismiss an action for lack of prosecution, failure to obey
8 a court order, or failure to comply with local rules, the court must consider several factors:
9 (1) the public's interest in expeditious resolution of litigation; (2) the court's need to
10 manage its docket; (3) the risk of prejudice to the defendants; (4) the public policy favoring
11 disposition of cases on their merits; and (5) the availability of less drastic alternatives.
12 *Thompson*, 782 F.2d at 831; *Henderson*, 779 F.2d at 1423-24; *Malone*, 833 F.2d at 130;
13 *Ferdik*, 963 F.2d at 1260-61; *Ghazali*, 46 F.3d at 53.

14 In the instant case, the Court finds that the first two factors, the public's interest in
15 expeditiously resolving this litigation and the Court's interest in managing the docket,
16 weigh in favor of dismissal. The third factor, risk of prejudice to Defendants, also weighs
17 in favor of dismissal, since a presumption of injury arises from the occurrence of
18 unreasonable delay in filing a pleading ordered by the court or prosecuting an action. See
19 *Anderson v. Air West*, 542 F.2d 522, 524 (9th Cir. 1976). The fourth factor – public policy
20 favoring disposition of cases on their merits – is greatly outweighed by the factors in favor
21 of dismissal discussed herein. Finally, a court's warning to a party that his failure to obey
22 the court's order will result in dismissal satisfies the "consideration of alternatives"
23 requirement. *Ferdik*, 963 F.2d at 1262; *Malone*, 833 F.2d at 132-33; *Henderson*, 779 F.2d
24 at 1424. The Court's order requiring Plaintiff to file his updated address with the Court
25 and file a non-prisoner application to proceed *in forma pauperis* on or before February
26 24, 2017 expressly stated: "IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, if Plaintiff fails to timely
27 comply with this order, the Court shall dismiss this case without prejudice." (ECF No. 9 at
28 3.) Thus, Plaintiff had adequate warning that dismissal would result from his

1 noncompliance with the Court's order to file his updated address and file a non-prisoner
2 application to proceed *in forma pauperis* on or before February 24, 2017.

3 It is therefore ordered that this action is dismissed without prejudice based on
4 Plaintiff's failure to file an updated address and a non-prisoner application to proceed *in*
5 *forma pauperis* in compliance with this Court's January 25, 2017, order.

6 It is further ordered that the Clerk of Court enter judgment accordingly.

7 DATED THIS 2nd day of March 2017.

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10 MIRANDA M. DU
11 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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